

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00599 121536Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 INR-07
NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01
/054 W

-----021854 121940Z /47

O R 121315Z JUL 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0925

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EWWT, EAID, EG
SUBJECT: PROBLEMS AT ALEXANDRIA PORT

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0595

1. INVESTIGATION OF PIER 81 AND AREA MID-MORNING 12 JULY SHOWS
SITUATION MUCH IMPROVED, NUMEROUS HEAVILY LOADED TRUCKS AWAITING
EXIT FROM PORT AND FIFTEEN OR TWENTY LOADING, HUBCAP-TO-HUBCAP
OR NOSE-TO-TAIL. UNFORTUNATELY ALL THIS ACTIVITY IS ONLY
CLEARING PIERS 79 (SMALL EGYPTIAN COASTER WAITING) AND PIER 80
(PRUDENTIAL LASH BARGE UNLOADING PL-480 ONTO TRUCKS).

2. PIER 81 STILL HAS MOUNTAIN OF SACKED GRAIN, SO FAR UNTOUCHED.
BRITISH VESSEL HALIFAX STAR NOW ALONGSIDE, BUT NO EVIDENCE
OF UNLOADING ACTIVITY. LLOYD'S SHIPPING INDEX INDICATES SHE LEFT
MONTEVIDEO JUNE 10. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CURRENT BACKLOG MAY RPT
MAY GET CLEARED AWAY SHORTLY, EMBASSY E/C OFFICER INFORMED US BY
TELEPHONE THAT CAIRO MINISTRY RE EION TO OUR PLEA (REFTEL) WAS
"WHY WORRY? IT'S NORMAL." GOE SOURCE THEN SAID MAXIMUM
HAULING CAPACITY FROM SILOS PIERS IS 5,000 TONS A DAY AND
8,000 TONS A DAY ARE ARRIVING. IF THIS IS PROVABLE FACT, EMBASSY
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PAGE 02 ALEXAN 00599 121536Z

MAY WISH TO CONSIDER URGING GOE TO PRESS ARMY PERSONNEL AND
TRANSPORTATION INTO ACTION AS WAS DONE IN CRASH CLEANUP OF DOCKS
IN WINTER TWO YEARS AGO, SINCE VOLUME OF SCHEDULED GRAIN ARRIVAL
REMAINS HIGH. END COMMENT.

3. ANOTHER UNLOADING PROBLEM FOR PL-480 GRAIN HAS NOW ARISEN.
SS VIRGO (AMERICAN FLAG) IS 500 FOOT LONG TANKER MOORED ALONG 300

FOOT PIER SEPARATING SILOS FROM PETROLEUM HARBOR. SHE IS MOORED BOW AGAINST MAIN SILOS PIER WITH ONE-THIRD HER LENGTH OUT INTO HARBOR. CAPTAIN IS UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS, CALLING IT DANGEROUS BECAUSE HE CANNOT PROPERLY LAY OUT STERN LINES.

4. NOW OFFICIAL FROM PORT OFFICE HAS REQUESTED VIRGO MOVE BACK ALONG ALREADY UNSATISFACTORY PIER TO LEAVE ROOM FOR INCOMING SHIP PRESUMABLY LONGER THAN BULK CARRIER ABOUT TO VACATE MAIN SILOS PIER. THIS CAPTAIN REFUSES TO DO, SINCE THEN AT LEAST HALF OF VIRGO WOULD EXTEND INTO HARBOR AND PRESENT UNACCEPTABLE DANGER TO SHIP. HE WAS THEN TOLD EITHER HE MOVED OR HE WOULD BE ORDERED BACK OUT TO ANCHOR. CAPTAIN POINTED OUT HE ARRIVED AHEAD OF INCOMING SHIP AND HAD RIGHT TO STAY AND FINISH UNLOADING.

5. CAPTAIN APPEALED TO PORT DIRECTOR WHO SAID HE PERSONALLY AGREED WITH CAPTAIN, BUT "RECEIVERS' AGENTS WERE APPLYING ALL KINDS OF PRESSURE". COMMENT - IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS ANY CRITERION, FOR "PRESSURE" READ "BAKSHEESH", USUALLY SIZEABLE. END COMMENT.

6. I TOLD CAPTAIN THAT CONGEN WOULD BACK HIS STAND AND WOULD SO INFORM PORT DIRECTOR. TO MAKE SURE LANGUAGE PROBLEM DID NOT INTERVENE, I HAVE HAD SENIOR FSL GO TO THE OFFICE TO REMIND PORT DIRECTOR, IN MY NAME, OF FIRM GOE COMMITMENT THAT US PL-480 CARGO HAS TOP PRIORITY. HE IS TO SAY THAT PORT DIRECTOR MAY TELL THIS TO RECEIVERS WHO ARE PRESSING HIM AND MAY TELL THEM THAT IF SS VIRGO IS NOT PERMITTED TO FINISH CURRENT UNLOADING WITHOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ALEXAN 00599 121536Z

INTERRUPTION, I WILL HAVE TO ASK EMBASSY CAIRO TO TAKE PROBLEM TO HIGH MINISTERIAL LEVEL.
CHASE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Format: TEL
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Litigation History:
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